

# P-Flag EDMONTON

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Next meeting will be: Tuesday November 16, 1993 at 7:30p.m.

For More information Phone Lynne [REDACTED]

A big thank-you to Dick Ryley for kindly donating P-flag pins to the group. The gold pins with cut out letters of P-flag will be sold for \$1.50 with the purchase of a membership or \$2.50 for extra pins for non-members.



Thank-you also to Murray Billet for coming and speaking to us about being a gay father. Everybody enjoyed his visit.

## P-Flag CHRISTMAS PARTY



It's time again to start planning our 1993 Christmas party. If anybody is willing to host the party, please let us know when we discuss this at the next meeting.

### P-FLAG POLE

The winter issue of P-flag Pole has arrived and will be distributed at the next meeting.

### Are You Interested In:

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## SPEAK UP...



If you have any ideas, suggestions  
or requests for future guest speakers!

## Edmonton Vocal Minority

**Edmonton Vocal Minority** is a group of women and men who join together in a common love for music and the desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian and gay community. From their base in this community, they reach out to include their family and friends. Through their commitment to musical and personal excellence, they seek to strengthen each other, and all who hear them. They strive to bridge the gap which can separate them from the mainstream of society and work to establish open and accepting lines of communication through which every person can benefit. Membership is open to all who share their goals and inspirations.

Non-singing individuals are welcome to join the choir as Support Members. These members make significant contributions to the choir through time and service. There is plenty of opportunity for Support Members to assist by serving in such areas as production, publicity, special needs and serving on the Board of Directors. Support Members attend all choir events (concerts, receptions, parties, etc.) free of charge and receive EVM's newsletter *Minority Monitor*.

During the 1993 - 1994 season, EVM will stage five productions:

The next one is **VOCAL VITALITY** (at the Lost Cabaret)  
November 26 & 27, 1993 @ 7:30 p.m.  
Alberta Theatre Arts Centre (Lost Cabaret)  
Main Floor, 10309-107 Street, Edmonton

## **P-Flag EDMONTON**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual Membership	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household Membership	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student/limited Income	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter subscription	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation	\$_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Make cheques payable to P-FLAG/Edmonton and Mail to:

Cindy [REDACTED]

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

P-FLAG is a non-profit and all volunteer support P-FLAG group not affiliated with any ethnic, political or religious organizations. Memberships are available for all. All information collected is strictly confidential.



## THE BELEAGUERED MINORITY

by Robert Bernstein

All right students, it's final exam time in Anthro 501, Minority Cultures.

Below is a list of statements taken from an article in a publication of general circulation. The article dealt with a particular minority orientation that has evoked severe hostility from the majority populations of many cultures throughout history. Your task is to fill in the blanks.

\* "(A certain famous person) is \_\_\_\_\_. As such, he is a member of a minority comprising approximately 10 percent of the population, depending upon how \_\_\_\_\_ is defined."

\* "The principal source of the anti \_\_\_\_\_ bias can be traced to the Bible."

\* "I would like to...draw up...a damage estimate of the cost of trying to convert a \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_."

\* "Some experts consider the customary categories of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ oversimplification. They regard (the incidence of the orientation) as a continuum, ranging from complete and total \_\_\_\_\_ on one end to absolute \_\_\_\_\_ on the other."

\* "Theories about the origin of \_\_\_\_\_ range from the influence of testosterone on the developing fetus to genetics \_\_\_\_\_ (often runs in families) to what might be called the "brain damage theory."

\* "There are indications...that artists have a significantly higher incidence of \_\_\_\_\_ than the general population."

\* "Some have even suggested that \_\_\_\_\_ may actually produce superior abilities. They cite Leonardo da Vinci...and Michelangelo."

My premise is that most readers will flunk my test. For, I kid you not, the article was

not about homosexuality and heterosexuality. It appeared in the Outlook Section of The Washington Post, and it was about left-handedness and right-handedness!

The analogies between handedness and sexual orientation, it turns out, are downright uncanny. And however unlikely it might now seem, the impact of the handedness prejudice has been profound.

Matthew in the New Testament envisions the blessed at the right hand of the Son of man, while those on His left are "ye cursed" who "shall go away into everlasting punishment." During the Middle Ages, left-handedness was associated with witchcraft. And down through the ages, parents have sown psychological havoc by forcing lefty children to write, eat and throw right-handed.

The bias even affects the way we speak. "Language retains the ancient disdain for things left," says the author of the Post article, Dr. Richard M. Restak. He points out that we describe those we distrust as "sinister" (from the Latin for left) and those we deem clumsy as "gauche" (French for left). On the other hand, such admirable qualities as "dexterity" and "adroitness" stem respectively from Latin and French roots for "right".

Nonetheless, except for a few such remnant traces, the prejudice against southpaws has by now essentially yielded to common sense. Does that portend hope for a similar ultimate triumph of reason and decency over homophobia?

Maybe.

It is, of course, difficult to imagine that the historical persecution and scorn against lefties ever attained the same level of viciousness as that

against gays. Nor does it now seem possible that the handedness bias could have been as deeply rooted in human emotion as is homophobia.

For example, I know many heterosexuals who are socially and politically accepting of gay persons, but who nevertheless are uncomfortable in the presence of an openly affectionate same-sex couple. One good friend, whom I know to be personally close to numerous gays, told me he passed up "Torch Song Trilogy" because he can't bear to watch two men kiss.

Is it really likely that, even at the height of the handedness prejudice, righties experienced the same sort of queasiness at the sight of a left-handed writer or diner? Is history replete with closeted southpaws? Was lefty-bashing ever in vogue? If so, there is obvious hope for the downfall of homophobia. The inspiration for the Post article from which the above quotations were taken (and the key to the identity of the "famous Person" mentioned in the first quote) was the inauguration of George Bush, a lefty, as our nation's 41st president.

Fortunately for him, no one ever tried to "change" him.

(Robert Bernstein is Vice president of The Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, headquartered in Washington, DC. This essay was printed in a number of publications after the 1988 inauguration of past-President George Bush. President Bill Clinton is also left handed.) (The Southern Signal, PFLAG Lafayette, LA)



## opinion corner

By Lloyd Thornhill  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Gertrude and Stan:

My Partner Bob and I would like to thank you both for the kindness and hospitality you showed towards us during our recent visit to a PFLAG meeting. We had a wonderful evening and were truly touched by all the other guests in attendance. God bless you both.

My main reason for writing is to make a few observations and comments regarding some in the church and their treatment of gay and lesbian people as well as their families. At the meeting we heard comments about people being angry with God because of poor treatment by a Priest or Pastor. As two Christians who are gay, we ask you not to be angry with God, because these people are self righteous and judgemental.

One of the concerns I have always had with terms that keep being used by Christians to keep gays and lesbians in the closet is that there is no sense to their arguments. Some of the words and terms that are used are: homosexual lifestyle, sexual preference, recruitment, homosexual agenda.

I will give my view on these in the following way:

**HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE:** When they use this term regarding homosexuals, I suppose they are talking about bars, baths and porno movies.

**HETEROSEXUAL LIFESTYLE:** bars, prostitution and porno movies.

Is either of the above a

true statement of the way most of us live our lives? I think NOT.

**SEXUAL PREFERENCE:** When I hear this term it sounds like we can choose our orientation as simply as ordering food from a menu. If I could order from the menu my preference would be heterosexuality, only because people would not ask me; when did you choose to be a heterosexual?

**RECRUITMENT:** I have never known a homosexual who tried to convince a heterosexual that they become gay. However, I often hear heterosexuals trying to make us something we cannot be. Who is recruiting who?

**HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA:** Every time I hear this term mentioned I ask myself what is my agenda and I have come to this conclusion. I want to be able to love my partner of 25 years without fear of retribution. I want to worship God at a church of my choice without being told from the pulpit that hell is my final destination. I want to receive the same benefits from my government that all tax payers receive. As long as I am on this earth I want to be able to reach out and help others without being rejected like a leper. I do not know if the above would be considered the homosexual agenda or not, but it is mine.

In closing I would like to tell you a little about Bob and myself. As noted we have been together for 25 years and love each other very much. Several years ago, we visited a small church in Phoenix, Arizona and while there we asked God to forgive us our sins and take over our lives. Our lives changed drastically after that.

We decided after much prayer to leave our government jobs and serve the Lord in any way we could. Bob has been

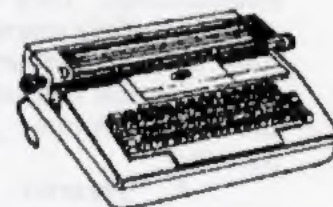
gifted with a beautiful singing voice so we visit churches, hospitals, nursing homes and anywhere else the Lord leads us, and share our love for God with everyone we come in contact with. We are also members of Liberty Community Church which is located at Comox and Broughton Streets in the west end. (Vancouver BC) We are a church that God has raised to reach out to hurting gay and lesbian people. We will be hosting a conference in early September and many Christians who are gay or lesbian will be coming to worship with us.

Our prayers to all members of PFLAG is that God will touch your lives and give you strength and understanding.

Remember: LOVE CONQUERS ALL.

Stan, please feel free to print any or all of this letter.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Lloyd Thornhill



**We would like to hear your opinion - where ever you are - on any subject - in 6 to 600 words. Mail to Opinion Corner, PFLAG**

